

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Front Page | Edi Page | Other Page |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|

EL PASO, TEXAS
TIMES

M. 60,111

S. 81,141

APR 24 1961

Shakedown Cruise?

WHENEVER A SHIP is completed and ready for the sea, it has to undergo a testing voyage or a "shakedown cruise" as it has come to be known. The seaworthiness of the vessel is tested, all functioning parts are checked out—in other words, if the vessel passes that test it then is ready for work.

The Cuban invasion, with its resultant name-calling by some and its charges by Khrushchev, the top Red name-caller and charge-maker, may be in the nature of a "shakedown cruise" for the Kennedy Administration. It may be the one event that will convince the Democratic Party that the honeymoon is over, the last tie with the former administration has been broken and the Kennedy Administration is now standing on its own.

Has the Kennedy Administration been proved seaworthy? Can it take the rough waves and the gentle shoals that lie ahead? Has the young President, who came into office with such high hopes, proved himself?

As one cruise can prove or disprove a ship as seaworthy, so one crisis easily could make or unmake an administration. And while the Kennedy Administration is under fire because of the action of the Central Intelligence Agency while the Russians are hurling charges at Washington, it will be a challenge to Mr. Kennedy to keep his head and be cool. Nothing will be gained by hasty action but much will be gained if this administration will profit by the lesson of its first crisis.

The ability to roll with a punch and come back fighting is one of a boxer's greatest assets. He takes the punch and then goes in again, seeking victory.

Let us hope the sports-minded President knows this trick and can take the shock of the Cuban rebellion defeat and its charges, roll with the punch and come back fighting. This is not the only crisis he will ever face . . . just the first!